

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 SAM-01 /065 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VN;JDFINNEY

APPROVED BY EA/CC:AANTIPPAS

S/S-O:MTANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076262

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF GVN ARREST OF ALLEGED COUP
PLOTTERS

REF: ANTIPPAS-BENNETT TELECON 0010H 4 APRIL

1. REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION ARE EXCERPTS FROM
WIRE SERVICE AGENCY REPORTS OF NEW ARRESTS BY GVN OF
MILITARY OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS CHARGED WITH PLOTTING TO
OVERTHROW PRESIDENT THIEU. UPI DISPATCH DATED 2038H
3 APRIL STATES QUOTE IHE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT SAID
EARLY FRIDAY IT HAD SMASHED A PLOT BY QUOTE SHORT-SIGHTED
ELEMENTS UNQUOTE TO OVERTHROW PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU
AND THAT A NUMBER OF MILITARY OFFICERS HAD BEEN ARRESTED
...IN ANNOUNCING THE COUP ATTEMPT, SOUTH VIETNAMESE
GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN SAID, QUOTE THESE ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN
ARRESTED BY SECURITY FORCES. FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS
UNDERWAY UNQUOTE. THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE INDICATION WHO
WAS ARRESTED, NOR HOW IMPORTANT THEY ARE. END QUOTE.

2. REUTERS REPORT DATED 4 APRIL STATES QUOTE THE SAIGON
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GOVERNMENT SAID TODAY IT HAD FOILED A MILITARY COUP

D'ETAT AND ARRESTED AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF PEOPLE. THE
INTERIOR MINISTRY SAID THOSE ARRESTED HAD BEEN SEIZED
BY SECURITY AGENTS AND WERE BEING INTERROGATED...AS MANY
AS 9 OR 10 PERSONS WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN

CONNECTION WITH LAST WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENT. BUT RELIABLE
SOURCES SAID ALL WERE CIVILIANS. THE DESCRIPTION OF AN
ALLEGED MILITARY COUP THIS TIME SUGGESTED THAT SOME
MILITARY MEN MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEIZED, BUT NO OFFICIAL
INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE ON THIS. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE076262
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: VN;JDFINNEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750116-0734
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750480/aaaacvba.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ANTIPPAS-BENNETT, 75 TELECON 0010H, 75 4
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REPORTS OF GVN ARREST OF ALLEGED COUP PLOTTERS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, VS
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006